

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON
GROUP RELATIONS* IN THE CITY OF NEWARK: PRESCRIBING ITS
DUTIES AND POWERS: AND PROVIDING FOR THE
APPOINTMENT OF AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND OTHER EMPLOYEES.

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF NEWARK DO HEREBY ORDAIN:

SECTION I: This Ordinance shall be known as "The Newark Fair Practice Ordinance".

SECTION II: DECLARATION OF POLICY: In the City of Newark, with its large cosmopolitan population, consisting of all the races, nationalities, religious and ethnic groups which constitute America, no greater menace threatens the peace, good order, security and welfare of the City and its inhabitants than the existence within it of groups antagonistic to one another and prejudiced against each other because of differences of race, creed, color, national origin or ancestry.

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Newark hereby finds and declares that the practice of prejudice, intolerance, bigotry and discrimination and the disorder occasioned thereby tends to create breaches of the peace and threatens not only the rights and proper privileges of its inhabitants but menaces the institutions and foundation of a free democratic state. To the end that such prejudice, intolerance, bigotry and discrimination shall be stamped out, this local law is enacted to provide an instrumentality through which the City of Newark may officially encourage and bring about mutual understanding and respect by all groups in the City, eliminate prejudice, intolerance, bigotry, discrimination and disorder and help give effect to the guarantee of equal rights for all as assured by the Constitution and laws of the State.

The enactment hereof shall be deemed an exercise of the police power of the City for the protection and preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of this City and its inhabitants and in fulfillment of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of this State guaranteeing civil rights.

SECTION III. *NEWARK HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: There is hereby created in the Office of the Mayor, a commission to be known as "The Human Rights Commission of the City of Newark", hereinafter referred to by the single term "Commission". It shall be composed of 15 representative citizens (herein designated as "Commissioners") serving without compensation, to be appointed by the Mayor.

All appointments to the Commission shall be for a term of 5 years, excepting upon the original organization of the Commission, 3 Commissioners shall be appointed for terms of 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 years, respectively, as they may be so designated by the Mayor. In the event of the death or resignation of any member, his successor shall be appointed to serve for the unexpired term for which such member had been appointed. Each member shall serve until his successor is duly appointed and qualified.

* See explanatory note at end of Ordinance.

The Commission shall select a Chairman, one or more Vice-Chairmen from its members and a Secretary (who may also be its Executive Director) and fill such other offices as it may determine. It is empowered to adopt rules for the government of its business and for its procedure as it may determine consistent with law.

The position of Executive Director for said Commission is hereby created. Such Executive Director shall have such duties as the Commission may from time to time prescribe. Said Executive Director and other employees of said Commission shall be appointed by the Board of Commissioners of this City at such compensation as it may authorize.

SECTION IV: FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION: The functions of the Commission shall be to foster mutual understanding and respect among all racial, religious and ethnic groups in the City of Newark; to discourage and prevent discriminatory practice against any such group or its members; to cooperate with Federal, State and Municipal agencies and non-governmental organizations having like or kindred functions; and to make such investigations and studies in any field of human relations as in the judgment of the Commission will aid in effectuating its general purposes.

SECTION V: POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION: The powers and duties of the Commission shall be to:

1. Aid in effectuating the purposes of an Act known as "Law Against Discrimination", N.J. Public Laws 1945, Chapter 169 and N.J. Public Laws 1949, Chapter II, and any Acts amendatory thereof and supplemental thereto.
2. Attempt to foster through community effort or otherwise, goodwill, cooperation and conciliation among the groups and elements of the inhabitants of this community.
3. Formulate and carry out educational programs that will aid in eliminating and preventing all types of prejudice and discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin or ancestry.
4. Receive and investigate complaints and initiate its own investigations of:
 - A. Racial, religious and ethnic group tensions, prejudice, intolerance, bigotry and discrimination and any breach of the peace or disorder occasioned thereby.
 - B. Practices of discrimination against any person because of race, color, creed, national origin or ancestry.
5. Issue such publications and such reports of investigations and research as in its judgment will tend to minimize or eliminate prejudice, intolerance, bigotry, discrimination, breach of peace or disorder or tend to promote goodwill.

6. Enlist the cooperation of the various racial, religious and ethnic groups, community, civic, labor and business organizations, fraternal and benevolent associations, veterans organizations, and other groups in educational campaigns and programs devoted to teaching the need for eliminating group tensions, prejudices, intolerance, bigotry and discrimination and breach of peace and disorder occasioned thereby.

7. Aid in the formation of local community groups in such neighborhoods as it may deem necessary or desirable to carry out specific programs designed to lessen tensions, or improve group relations in the community.

8. To cooperate with Federal, State and City agencies in developing programs showing the contributions of the various races, religions and ethnic groups to the culture and traditions of our City and Nation, the menace of prejudice, intolerance, bigotry and discrimination and the need for mutual self-respect.

9. Create such advisory committees and sub-committees of citizens as in its judgment will aid in effectuating the purposes of this local law and to empower them to study the problems of prejudice, intolerance, bigotry and discrimination and breach of the peace and disorder occasioned thereby.

10. Make recommendations to the City's Board of Commissioners for the development of policies and procedures in general and for programs of formal and informal education that will aid in eliminating all types of discrimination based on race, creed, national origin or ancestry.

11. Recommend to the City's Board of Commissioners, legislation to aid in carrying out the purposes of this local law.

SECTION VI: RELATIONS WITH THE CITY'S DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES:

All City Departments and Agencies shall cooperate with the Commission in all respects.

SECTION VII: SEPARABILITY:

If any clause, sentence, paragraph or part of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, shall, for any reason, be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of this Ordinance.

SECTION VIII: EFFECTIVE DATE:

This Ordinance shall take effect ten days after publication after final passage in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey.

Ralph A. Villani
M. Ellenstein
Leo P. Carlin
Stephen J. Moran
Keenan - (Not voting)

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE
CITY OF NEWARK, N.J.

Factual contents certified to by

Ralph A. Villani, Mayor

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Newark, at a meeting held October 15, 1952.

In TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and affixed the Seal of the City of Newark, this 16th day of October, A.D., 1952.

H. S. REICHENSTEIN

City Clerk of Newark, N. J.

* NOTE:

In 1962 the name of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations was officially changed to the Newark Human Rights Commission. For this reason we have changed the name wherever it appears in the body of this Ordinance.